

What is claimed is:

*Initial A1*

1. A laser intensity adjusting method of adjusting a maximum intensity of a laser exposure mechanism for irradiating laser light to a surface of a photoreceptor to which a uniform potential is being given by a corona discharger, the method comprising:

10 a coarse-division potential detecting step of (i) exposing photoreceptor surface portions to laser lights of a plurality of laser intensities obtained by coarsely dividing a predetermined laser intensity, and (ii) detecting potentials of the photoreceptor surface portions exposed to the laser lights of the plurality of laser intensities;

15 a fine-division potential detecting step of (i) further finely dividing, in the vicinity of a laser intensity corresponding to a potential which is a nearest to a predetermined set potential out of the potentials detected at the coarse-division potential detecting step, the predetermined laser intensity to set a plurality of laser intensities, (ii) exposing photoreceptor surface portions to laser lights of the plurality of laser intensities thus set, and (iii) detecting potentials of the photoreceptor surface portions exposed to the laser lights of the plurality of laser intensities; and

20 a step of (i) repeating the fine-division potential

detecting step until there is obtained potential equal to or substantially equal to the predetermined set potential, and (ii) setting, as the maximum intensity, the laser intensity corresponding to the potential thus obtained.

5        2. A laser intensity adjusting method of adjusting a maximum intensity of a laser exposure mechanism for irradiating laser light to a surface of a photoreceptor to which a uniform potential is being given by a corona discharger, the method comprising:

10        a first potential detecting step of (i) exposing photoreceptor surface portions to laser lights of a plurality of laser intensities set at first intervals, and (ii) detecting potentials of the photoreceptor surface portions exposed to the laser lights of the plurality of 15 laser intensities;

      a second potential detecting step of (i) exposing photoreceptor surface portions to laser lights of a plurality of laser intensities which are set, at second intervals smaller than the first intervals, in the vicinity 20 of a laser intensity with which there has been detected, at the first potential detecting step, a potential which is a nearest to a predetermined set potential, and (ii) detecting potentials of the photoreceptor surface portions exposed to the laser lights of the plurality of laser 25 intensities; and

a step of setting, as the maximum intensity of the laser exposure mechanism, a laser intensity with which there has been detected, at the first or second potential detecting step, potential equal to or substantially equal to 5 the predetermined set potential.

3. A laser intensity adjusting method according to Claim 2, wherein the second potential detecting step is repeated until there is obtained potential equal to or substantially equal 10 to the predetermined set potential.

4. A laser intensity adjusting method according to Claim 2, wherein —the laser intensities set at first and second potential detecting steps have values selected from a plurality of laser intensities obtained by dividing the 15 predetermined laser intensity by a predetermined number.

5. A laser intensity adjusting method according to Claim 4, wherein the predetermined laser intensity is set to a value 20 which is considered to be greater than a suitable maximum intensity.

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